

# UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Benefits of their Implementation



Clean Air



Shared and  
Safe Water



Safe Industry



Environmental  
Assessment



Public  
Participation

*Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa  
Regional Adviser on Environment,  
UNECE*

# Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



## Main Areas of Work

- **51 Parties**
- **Objective:** Reducing air pollution to save lives and protect the environment
- **Since 1979**, Convention parties work together on how best to reduce emissions
- **Resulting in:** emissions reductions by 40% to 70% since 1990 in Europe

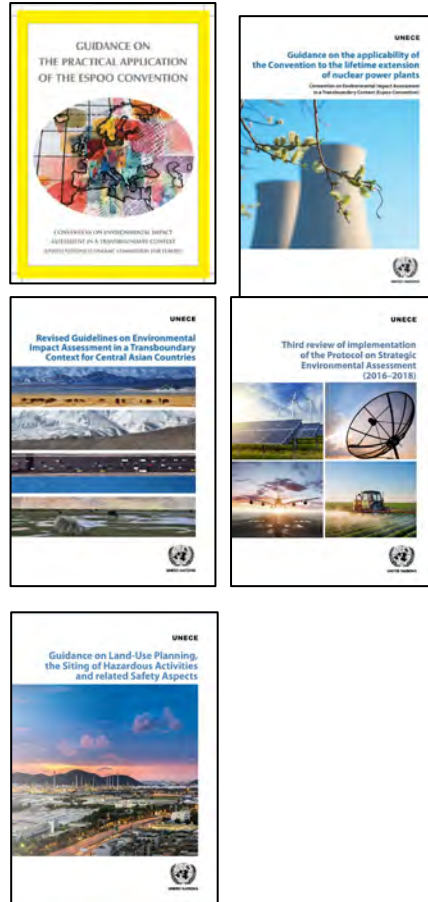
- International agreement setting emission reduction targets for the following pollutants:
  - SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, POPs, heavy metals, PM (including black carbon)
- Science underpinning policy:
  - The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects
- Compliance monitoring, capacity-building (emission inventories, legislation analysis, Best Available Techniques), awareness raising and communications



# Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context



- 30 Parties
- Since 1997
- The Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) provide a legal framework and clear procedures for the comprehensive integration of environmental and health concerns into a wide range of development activities, plans, programmes, policies and legislation in all economic sectors.



## Requirements:

- To notify & consult on planned activities likely to have significant environmental impact across borders
- Preparation and sharing of assessment of environmental impacts

## Benefits

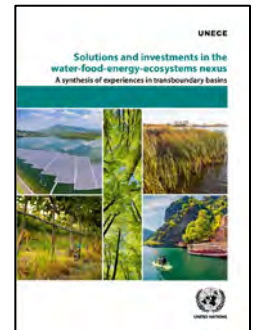
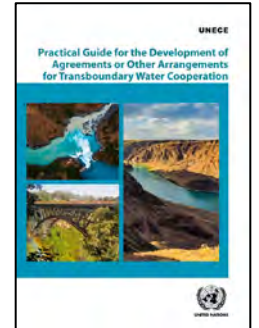
- Allows affected Parties (authorities & public) to comment on planned activities and on the assessment of their environmental impact.
- Provides for bilateral consultations between concerned Parties



# Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



- **49 Parties**, worldwide and more than 15 countries under accession process
- **Unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform**
- **Objective:** prevention of transboundary impacts; **equitable and reasonable utilization** of the shared water resources; and **cooperation**
- **Since 1996**, the Convention and parties work jointly together to enhance transboundary water cooperation and management:
  - Addressing political and technical challenges of Parties and non-Parties in managing their transboundary water resources through capacity building activities and the development of practical tools
  - Supports policy processes and technical cooperation from the national, to the basin and global levels



# Water Convention in Central Asia

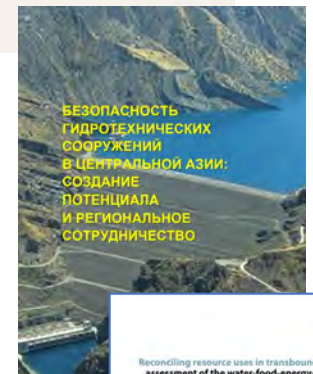
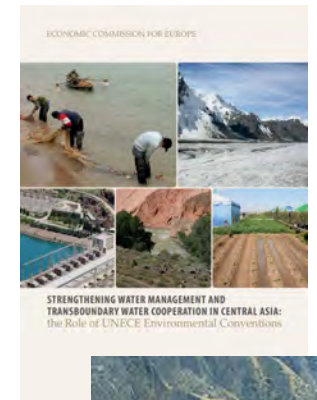


- UNECE was the **first one in the region** to start working on dam safety (1989), IFAS reform (2009-2014), development of the Aral Sea Basin Programmes, water quality, establishment of Tajik-Afghan cooperation on the Pyanj

- UNECE supported the Berlin Water Process (since 2008)

## Projects in Central Asia:

- National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia
- Project to support cooperation in the Chu Tals river basin
- Supporting Kazakhstan's transition towards Green Economy model
- Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin
- Water quality in Central Asia
- Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya river in emergency situations



# Protocol on Water and Health



- First and only **legally binding instrument** focusing on interlinkages between WASH and health
- **Jointly serviced** by UNECE and WHO/Europe
- **27 Parties** (40 countries, incl. CA, working in its framework)
- **Practical framework** to realize water-related SDGs and human rights to water and sanitation
- **Objective:** protecting human health by better water management and reducing water-related diseases as well as preventing epidemics (by providing access to WASH for everyone)
- **Main obligations:** setting national targets and regularly reporting on progress

In practice, Protocol offers:

1. **Regional coordination platform** to exchange experience and share WASH data across sectors
2. System for **improving governance and accountability** through target setting and reporting mechanism;
3. **Practical tools and methodologies and access to international experts** (e.g. climate-resilient water and sanitation systems, anti-microbial resistance, tools to assess equity and ensure affordability of services)

**In Central Asia:**

**Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan** currently acceding  
**Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan** set targets under Protocol  
All countries, incl. **Turkmenistan**, participate in technical activities

# Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters



- **47 Parties**, incl. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
- **Since 1998**
- Has **the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**
- **The Convention**
  - Links environmental rights and human rights
  - Aims to protect the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to health and well-being
  - Focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development
  - Ensures effective and inclusive public access to information (incl. in case of imminent threat to human health and the environment), participation in decision-making regarding projects, plans, programmes, policies and legislation and access to justice
- **Accountability, Transparency, and Responsiveness**



# UNECE cooperation with Green Central Asia



- Green Central Asia: Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience
- Regional Action plan for a joint political dialogues on climate, environment and security – UNECE participated in discussions and consultations - UNECE is one of the partners of the Programme
- From **four** joint regional priorities agreed by countries:
  3. Cooperation in and contribution to international instruments such as: selected UNECE Conventions
- **Joint activities**
  - Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and Internatinal Lakes, incl.the Protocol on Water and Health - **Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and data exchange in Central Asia, 1-2 February 2023, Astana**
  - Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents - **Subregional Workshop on Mine Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution, 25-26 May 2023, Dushanbe**
  - Aarhus Convention – **International Roundtable on the Aarhus Convention, 1-2 June 2023, Tashkent**





# Thank you for your attention! Questions?

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy-1>



Clean Air



Shared and  
Safe Water



Safe Industry



Environmental  
Assessment



Public  
Participation

*Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa*  
Regional Adviser on Environment,  
UNECE

[sarangoo.radnaaragchaa@un.org](mailto:sarangoo.radnaaragchaa@un.org)